

Mike Rittiman, get well, we miss you!

In Brief:

RS - 16

Update:

While the RS - 16 transponders apparently have not yet been switched on, the beacons on both 2 meters and 70 cm have been active. B. J. Arts, WTON, reports that during a pass over North America on March 14, RS-16's 10-meter beacons at 29.408 and 29.451 MHz were not heard, while the 70-cm beacons at 435.504 and 435.548 MHz were active. The 435.504-MHz beacon was very strong, while the 435.548-MHz beacon was very weak. Once the transponder has been turned on, the uplink passband on 2 meters will be 145.915 to 145.948 MHz, and the downlink on 10 meters will be 29.415 to 29.448 MHz.—B.J. Arts, WTON

Alinco cuts prices again: For the second time in less than a year, Alinco has an-

(Continued on page 2)

President's Memo:

I can't believe it's already April. We have a few events this month. Hurricane Polly exercise on the 17th of April from 8:00am to 3:00pm. Steve Cerwin, WA5FRF and Don Jones, N5WSW, yours truly, will be at the Red Cross to help out where needed. Charles Thomas, WA3PAY, our Emergency Coordinator (EC) for Bexar County, should have an article in this issue concerning Hurricane Polly and ARES. Furthermore, we have the Texas Children's Festival on the 19th of April. Steve Cerwin is the master planner again this year, in other words, the chairman. Those looking for a good time and wishing to participate please call Steve at 681-2037. Also, included in this issue of the Bexar Wire is the 10-10 annual picnic to be held at Jack Moore house in Bulverde on the 1st. June read further for additional information.

The Board of Directors met on the 28th of March. The directors voted and approved the 1997 budget. The club needs to vote and

(Continued on page 2)

It's the end of an era for The Radio Amateur Callbook!

Publisher Bob Hughes announced March 17 in a letter to Callbook distributors that the company is phasing out its telephone-book-size paper North American and international editions in favor of its CD-ROM product. The 1997 Callbook--the 75th edition--will be the last hard-copy version available. The letter cited "rising costs and increasing demand for electronic publishing" as the reasons for the company's decision to concentrate on the CD-ROM version, which includes worldwide listings. North American and international editions of the paper Callbook, a staple for years in many active ham shacks, sell for around \$40, while

the CD-ROM sells for around \$50. The Callbook began publishing in 1920. Radio Amateur Callbook is produced by Watson-Guptill Publications.

The spring CD-ROM edition of the Callbook will be available at the Dayton Hamfest, Hughes' told distributors.

According to Hughes' letter, the company has "a limited supply of the printed edition" and anticipates that demand will be great once the word gets out. The last printed version will carry a label indicating "Last Edition of the Callbook." (For orders, call 800-278-8477; e-mail 103424.2142@CompuServe.com.)

April Contents:

	Page No.
World Telecommunications Day	2
The National Traffic System	3
Ham Care and Feeding	5
AMSAT Satellite Info	7
VE Testing, Newsletter Info, Officers	9
Coming Events	10

"there is truly a skill to being a net control station for a traffic net."

(Continued from page 2)

agree to respond to help answer ham radio questions from Scouts in their area for at least one month. To sign up, send e-mail to Mel Goldberg at myriad1@ix.netcom.com. Include your name and call sign, e-mail address; locations you can serve; mode(s) of communication, such as e-mail only, e-mail and telephone, telephone and ham class, etc; and your Scouting affiliation and position (past affiliation and date, if applicable), or your Scout or Scout leader sponsor. ScoutElmer Award recipients get a certificate, a Web site logo and the satisfaction that you helped promote Amateur Radio in Scouting. For more information, contact Mel Goldberg, KO6TF, via e-mail or visit the ScoutRadio Web site at <http://www.ocbsa.org/troop319/ham.htm>.

1997 AMSAT-NA conference last call for papers: The 1997 AMSAT-NA meeting and space symposium will be held October 17-19, 1997, at the Airport Delta Hotel, Toronto, Ontario Canada. Those wishing to present papers must for-

(Continued on page 4)

The National Traffic System (NTS)

Now this title sounds like something to do with the Department of Transportation. Or maybe you might picture a big map of the U.S. showing the interstate highways all drawn out with blinking lights, special digital readouts and warnings of danger areas. Nah, nothing so elaborate. From the early days of radio, even back to the spark gap days, hams started sending messages across the U.S. Over a period of time, operators became familiar with times and frequencies to meet other stations for successful relaying of message traffic. Gee, do you think the word relay in American Radio Relay League refers to the electromagnetic device used in all our equipment or could it refer to message relaying which has always been a strong part of our hobby? I could be wrong but I think the latter is correct.

The ARRL's Public Service Communications Manual defines the NTS as follows:

The National Traffic System plan is a means for systematizing amateur traffic handling facilities by making a structure available for an integrated traffic facility designed to achieve the utmost in two principal objectives: rapid movement of traffic from origin to destination, and training amateur operators to handle written traffic and participate in directed nets. These two objectives, which sometimes conflict with each other, are the underlying foundations of the National Traffic System.

What a mouthful! Brain overload if anything. Maybe I can say it simpler. NTS is hams handling message traffic. Hams meet at scheduled times on scheduled frequencies with other hams to send messages. People think that NTS and message handling is terribly outmoded in the modern day world of regular telephone, cellphones, and digital data systems including the Internet and email. Well, to be honest even the U.S. mail moves faster than some of our traffic. So why do we do it? Some of us see a reason to know how to handle message traffic. What happens

when all the phone lines and digital circuits are knocked out by an earthquake or hurricane or other disaster. Sure it doesn't happen everyday but we are ready. Some of us use email and the Internet at times to help out too. We are not limited to only radio but we may be in an emergency. Traffic handling qualifies as public service because we do handle messages on behalf of the public and not just for other hams. Besides the challenge of learning how to send and receive messages, there is truly a skill to being a net control station for a traffic net. And like so many other amateur radio activities, traffic handling and the NTS is not learned overnight. Why do ham operators become traffic handlers and often stick to it through the years? Traffic handlers enjoy having a good reason to use their equipment. They also enjoy feeling that they are helping other people by moving messages along the path to their destination. Finally, overall, traffic handlers are very nice people.

Traffic nets you can get started with meet at the following times and frequencies:

Central Texas Traffic Net: 6:30 PM on 147.140 MHz repeater and 7:30 PM on 147.100 MHz repeater

Texas Traffic Net: 3783 kHz from 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM

Texas Slow Net (CW): 3720 kHz at 8:00 PM

Texas CW Net : 3643 kHz at 7:00 PM & 10:00 PM

If you have any questions feel free to call me at home up at Canyon Lake at 210-899-7130 in the evenings. We can always use more traffic handlers and it really does get to be fun.

Also, FYI, checkout the South Texas ARRL Web Site at the following address: <http://www.utexas.edu/students/utarc/stx/index.htm>

Story by Ed Larose, KS5V

A pet ham can be trained to perform simple tricks, the easiest and most common being "sit" and "speak."

(Continued from page 4)

itable business for us and has not been for a number of years." The store closing eliminated eight jobs. Henry Radio opened in Butler, Missouri, in 1927.

Lucid gets award:

The National Aviation Club presented its first annual Achievement Award March 12 to astronaut Shannon Lucid, who became familiar to many hams from her radio activities from the Russian Mir space station. She was selected "for her technical expertise, dedicated service, and pioneering spirit as a space shuttle astronaut." Lucid holds the record for the longest duration in space by a US astronaut and longest space flight by a woman. She becomes the first to receive the yet-to-be-named trophy that was to have been presented to Amelia Earhart upon the completion of her around-the-world flight in the 1930s. Lucid has flown on five shuttle missions including her record-setting mission to Mir last year. She holds a commercial pilot's license, with instrument and multi-engine aircraft ratings.

Norm's acquires Alliance Tenna-Rotor line:

Norm's Rotor Service, Frederick, Maryland--owned and operated by Norm Jeweler, K3LYW--has ac-

(Continued on page 10)

Pet Ham Care and Feeding

Pet hams are so intelligent they often seem human, but they can be difficult to raise. Only someone with great patience should attempt it. In case you do, here is a guide to the basics:

Living Area—A pet ham needs a private nest area, an entire room where it will not be disturbed. Your pet ham will spend many happy hours alone there with its treasures—boxes, wires, bits of metal, glass, plastic, paper, etc., that it will bring home whenever it ventures out. You will want to encourage your pet ham to confine its activity to this room to prevent the entire house from being subjected to noise, clutter and the boring of holes in walls.

Expenses—Keeping a pet ham is expensive, but, unlike most pets, a pet ham can be trained to work outside the home for a few hours each day. It may even bring in enough money to offset its expenses.

Feeding—A well-behaved pet ham will eat with the family occasionally, but it usually will feel more comfortable and secure taking its meals in the nest room. You must be sure your pet ham is well supplied with food and drink during the long periods it spends alone in there, even if it does not beg or whine.

Obedience Training—A pet ham can be trained to perform simple tricks, the easiest and most common being "sit" and "speak." Do not be alarmed if it practices them for hours at a time in its nest room.

Health problems—The pet ham typically suffers lower back pain and minor throat irritations from too much sitting and speaking, but health maintenance costs tend to be minimal.

Travel—Your pet ham will gladly travel with your family by car or even by air, if allowed to bring along certain familiar items from the nest room. Most pet hams enjoy trips to places where they can meet pet hams from other families.

Breeding—If you plan to breed your pet ham, you should do so as soon as possible after you get it. As a pet ham matures, it becomes increasingly reluctant to engage in activities not associated with its nest room collection. -- (Fort Herkimer (NY) Amateur Radio Club FHARC News)

SB QST ARL ARLBO18

(Continued from page 4)

the operator license be valid for the lifetime of the holder. The FCC said operators would still have to renew their station licenses every ten years and that it did not want to maintain a separate database to keep track of station license expirations.

The FCC announced all of the rules changes in a Report and Order, FCC 97-99, adopted March 20 and issued April 1. The amendments become effective 30 days after the Report and Order is published in The Federal Register.

For Sale:

Hygain Explorer 14 Beam
10-15-20 Meters
Plus 40 M add-on
All original manuals
In great shape. \$150 or
trade for newer 2 meter
mobile Greg/N5SKE
681-1251 evenings

Packard-Bell 386-SX,
with Monitor and Mouse,
call Dick at 735-2489

AMSAT Satellite News:

SB SAT @ AMSAT \$ANS-096.05
WEEKLY SATELLITE REPORT PT 1

HR AMSAT NEWS SERVICE BULLETIN 096.05 FROM AMSAT HQ
SILVER SPRING, MD, APRIL 06, 1997
TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS BT
BID: \$ANS-096.05

MIR:

(New frequencies implemented 1 January 1997: Uplink 145.2 MHz FM Downlink 145.8 MHz FM) Note, the above split is used for both packet and voice operation.

SAFEX, MIR

70cm Repeater (Uplink 435.750 MHz FM, Downlink 437.950 MHz FM, Subaudible tone 141.3 Hz) The repeater has been operational and active.

RS-10:

(Uplink 145.865-145.905 MHz CW/SSB, Downlink 29.36-29.4 MHz CW/SSB) Operating normally.

RS-12:

(Uplink 21.21-21.25 MHz CW/SSB, Downlink 29.41-29.45 MHz or 145.91-145.95 MHz CW/SSB) The sat continues to provide excellent downlink signals in both T- and K-mode. [ANS thanks Dick Montgomery, N3DV, for this update.]

RS-15

(Uplink 145.858-145.898 MHz CW/SSB, Downlink 29.354-29.394 MHz CW/SSB) Fred Andreas, ZR5FA, has been following RS-15 "night" passes closely from ZS-Land the past week and noticed the downlink signal on voice to be extremely strong lately (on par with RS-10), despite the apparent charging problem. There has been no noted activity on RS-15 from the African continent of late. [ANS thanks Fred Andreas, ZR5FA, for this report.] Be aware that RS-15 has battery charging problems. When the satellite is in the dark it has low output power..[ANS thanks Geoff Perry for this report.] (Hint: If SSB doesn't work for you, try CW. CW is very easy to hear on the downlink!)

RS-16

RS-16's 70 cm, 435.504 Mhz beacon on RS-16 operational. The 10 meter beacon is not active at this time. Transponder is not yet operational.

FO-20

(Uplink 145.9-146.0 MHz CW/LSB, Downlink 435.8-435.9 MHz CW/USB) Operating normally. Strong downlink signals.

KO-23

(Uplink 145.85, 145.9 MHz FM, Downlink 435.175 MHz FM, 9600 Baud FSK.) KO-23 is operating normally.

KO-25:

(Uplink 145.980 MHz FM, Downlink 436.5 MHz FM, 9600 Baud FSK.) KO-25 is operating normally. [ANS thanks Jim Weisenberger, AA7KC, for his reports on KO-25 and KO-23.]

AO-27:

(Uplink 145.85 MHz FM, Downlink 436.8 MHz FM) Operating normally and lots of activity heard over North America and Europe. As of NOV 2, the AO-27 schedule is as follows: TEPR 4 = 16 = 8 Minutes in Length TEPR 5 = 52 = 18 Minutes in Length TX-3 is on Mid Power during TEPR 5. This setting will have the TX turn on 8 Minutes after the satellite enters the sun for a duration of 18 Minutes. This is a "back to US Latitudes" operation. N4USI, AO-27's current Command Station sends his thanks all for their messages about the satellite turning on later than expected. He reports he's deliberately letting the "turn on" time drift later (for about 4-5 Minutes) so stations in the southern latitudes can also have a chance to work AO-27. Every few months he will be letting the turn on time drift like this to give more stations a chance to make contacts thru the satellite. [ANS thanks Michael Wyrick, N4USI, AO-27 Control-op, and Miguel A. Menendez, EA1BCU, for this update.]

FO-29

Voice/CW (Uplink 145.9-146.0 MHz CW/LSB, Downlink 435.8-435.9 MHz CW/USB) Digital (Uplink 145.85, 145.87, 145.910 MHz FM, Downlink 435.910 MHz FM 9600 baud BPSK) The latest FO-29 Schedule can be found at <http://www.kt.rim.or.jp/~jr1nvu/eindex.html> The JARL FO-29 command station announced that FO-29 will be again put in digi-talker mode on 4th to 7th April, with thanks to well received digi-talker to satellite beginners.

Builders?

Has anyone built any of the new Ten-Tec T-Kits? If so, why don't you write up a short note about how you found the kit to go together and your operating impressions? It would make interesting reading in The Bexar Wire!

Construction articles, DX worked, interesting contacts or interesting ham gear can all make good articles for the newsletter.

Is there anything you would like to see in the Bexar Wire? If so, drop me an e-mail or other note and let me know!

KI5SL

Local VE Testing

1. ARRL Test group:

San Pedro Presbyterian Church
14900 San Pedro, 3rd Thursday each month,
7:30 PM, Contact Les Dale, NI5S for more info
at 673-8852. there will be no April tests, testing
resumes May 15th.

2. W5YI Test Group:

San Antonio Amateur Radio Society (STARS)
Trinity Lutheran Church
5520 South Flores St.
2nd Saturday of the month, 12:00 Noon
Contact Joe, AF5D, for more info at 922-8136

3. ARRL test Group

Independent Fundamental Baptist Network
Liberty Baptist Church
7421 Marbach Road
Contact Jerry Sanders, AB5HE, for more info at
522-1758

4. Boerne Area ARRL/ W5YI Testing

Kendall Amateur Radio Society (KARS)
Boerne Fire Station, in the rear
1st Thursday each month, 7:00 PM
Contact David McDaniel at 981-4601 or Larry
Becker at 249-3168 for more info

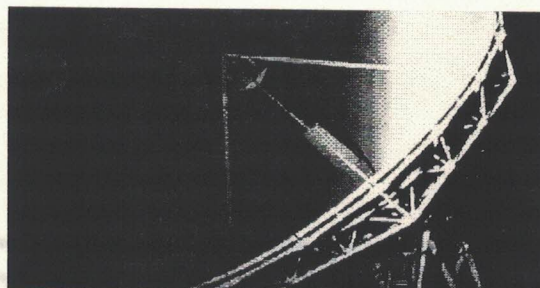
5. W5YI Test Group

Radio Operators of South Texas (ROOST)
1st and 3rd Saturday each month, 1:00 PM to 3:00
PM
Harmony Volunteer Fire Department, in the rear
11125 Foster Road
Call Diana, KK5CO, at 635-7384 for more info

6. W5YI Test Group

Last Saturday of the month, 12:00 Noon to 2:00 PM
Red Cross Headquarters Building
East Houston and Commerce Streets
Contact Herman Aguirre, WB5TRK, at 433-1714 for
more info

New applicants should contact the V.E. examiner
for information on required identification, supplies,
testing fees and possible schedule changes.



Submitting articles to the Bexar Wire:

Electronic Submission is my preferred method of having articles delivered to me, but, I will take typewritten material or text on disk in Word, WordPerfect, or ASCII formats. If you would put these in an envelope, mark it: **To KI5SL**, and leave with one of the fellows at **K-Comm, The Ham Store** for me, I'll be able to handle them. K-Comm is on my way home so it is real convenient for me to me to pick up material there. e-mail: rblank@txdirect.net, put "Newsletter" as the subject, **please**, this will allow a copy to go into my Newsletter folder automatically. U.S. Mail address: 2331 Vance Jackson, San Antonio, Texas 78213. Thanks, KI5SL

San Antonio Radio Club Officers

President:	Don Jones, N5WSW,	Telephone: 342-5586
Vice-President:	George Ferguson, K5HVM,	Telephone: 408-7900
Secretary:	Kurt Johnson, KB5ZZT,	Telephone: 561-0593
Treasurer:	Mike Check, KB5UCQ,	Telephone 525-4206
Sergeant -at-Arms	Mike Rittiman, WB5OKK,	Telephone: 734-6952
Bexar Wire Editor:	Rick Blank, KI5SL,	Telephone: 525-8073

San Antonio Radio Club
5642 Spring Moon Street
San Antonio, Texas 78247

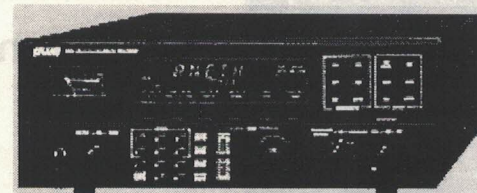
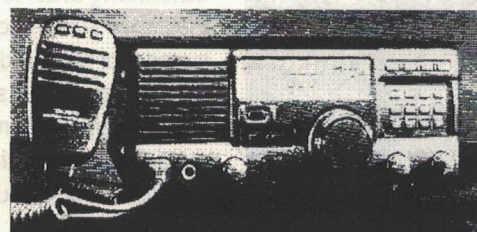
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The Bexar Wire

Coming Events:

Hamfests:

April 19, 1997	Belton
May 16-18, 1997	Dayton
June 6-8, 1997	Ham Com, Arlington
August 1-3, 1997	Summerfest, Austin
Nov. 1-2, 1997	Odessa



9th Annual 10-10 Picnic

The 9th annual Hill Country 10-10 picnic will be held on June 1 at the QTH of K5CC (ex K4NF). Anyone interested in 10-10 is invited. Family and friends are welcome. Robert, WA5JDU, will be operating the club station, W5SC. For more details contact Jack at 210-885-2194 or on the K3WGF BBS or on e-mail to: jmoore@texanet.net

(Continued from page 5)

quired all parts, materials and technical data for the Alliance Tenna-Rotor series of antenna rotators from the Genie Company. Norm's will provide support for the HD-73, U-100 and U-110 series rotors and control boxes. For more information, contact Norm's Rotor Service, 5263 Agro Dr, Frederick, Maryland 21703; tel 301-874-5885; fax 301-874-5887.

In Brief stories are from The ARRL Letter

THE STORY BEHIND MEXICO-OSCAR-30

Dr. Tom Clark, W3IWI has cleared much confusion regarding the status of the MEXICO-OSCAR-30 satellite launched last year. The satellite with the 40 MHz meteor RADAR was built at UNAM (The Autonomous University of Mexico) in Mexico City by XE1TU and his students. The basic spacecraft was of the same design as the other AMSAT Microsats, including LUSAT, DOVE, WEBERSAT, ITAMSAT and EYESAT.

Many will recall that the first UNAMSAT was destroyed (along with the Israeli TECHSAT satellite) when the Russian START launch vehicle exploded shortly after the launch from Plesetsk.

A new UNAMSAT satellite, which later became known as MEXICO-OSCAR-30, was built from spare parts and launched late last summer on a different launch vehicle also from Plesetsk. The satellite successfully reached orbit and transmitted telemetry for about one day.

The weather at the launch pad the day MO-30 reached orbit was very cold. The satellite separated from the launcher at a temperature of about -30 C. It is believed that the frigid temperatures prevented the first local oscillator of the satellite's uplink receiver from oscillating, rendering the satellite totally deaf. With no functioning uplink receiver, battery charging parameters suitable for the unanticipated cold temperature could not be loaded, and the satellite ran out of power.

Later attempts to revive MEXICO-OSCAR-30 have been unsuccessful.

[Info via Dr. Tom Clark, W3IWI]

FO-29 DIGITALKER ACTIVE

The JARL FO-29 command station has announced that FO-29 will be placed in Digitalker mode between April 4th and 7th.

[Info via Kazu Sakamoto, JJ1WTK]

Satellite Articles From "SpaceNews" 07-April-97, editor KD2BD

Letter from the Editor:

I wish to thank everyone for all the positive comments that I have received on the last issue of "The Bexar Wire" and I hope to be able to continue to be able to do this small bit of service for the ham community in San Antonio. I also wish to apologize for the lateness of this issue which was due to several unforeseen circumstances with my business having to be relocated as the largest thief of time and a couple of injuries to my left hand which made it *real* difficult to type!

As before, most of the news in this issue comes from the ARRL's website with it's timely information delivery. I am also researching more areas of news items of interest to the readership of this newsletter and will try and include news items sooner than the national magazines can. To this end, I again ask that *anyone* with any newsworthy items to please get them to me so I can include them in "The Bexar Wire."

I will also take "For Sale" ads from members on any kind of gear of interest to Hams, and on Ham gear alone from non-members, at no charge to the seller, just as a service of the newsletter.

I would also like to add any kind of awards that anyone receives for Ham operations and any interesting contacts made...I made a contact into Latvia several years back that was real interesting in that this was about the time that the Latvians were struggling for independence....send me stories of this kind of a nature and lets share the excitement of Hamming with the rest of the club!

If you operate in any contests, let's have your score and I'll publish it. If you are a satellite operator, send me some of the details of your operation and maybe we can get more interest in the birds to happen in our club.

I guess basically what I am trying to say is, please send me things about your activities in Ham Radio and help me make "The Bexar Wire" a **club** publication that we can all be proud of!

A letter to Don, N5WSW:

Don,

Jim Robinson of the Madison county Amateur Radio club maintains the Texas SKYWARN home page. The current URL is<http://www.geocities.com/~skywarn-texas/>.

I ran across him when he saw the home page I made for the National Weather Service here. I had asked him permission to use one background of clouds, and he said ok, so I put it on our Severe Weather Page.

I believe from the letter he sent me, that they are going to move it to another server, and the page will have a new look. New URL is in his letter. The page when I called it up, is not complete and only the numeric URL worked, as of 4 PM Mar 2.

He talks about a newsletter on the page, and welcomes all hams to, I guess in or out of Skywarn to send skywarn related material. I have pasted his letter below so you can see it firsthand.

Robert,

I mentioned to you on a prior occasion that SKYWARN Texas will be putting up a home page on its own server. Its now running in test mode at this URL: <http://207.239.233.240/>. Our goal is to begin producing a periodic Internet newsletter for amateur operators who participate in SKYWARN, and have it at the new home page. We will solicit both articles and photos (training, actual field activities, etc.) from SKYWARN participants and NWS personnel, and include them to make it interesting and timely. If you know of people in the San Antonio-Austin area who would like to submit material, please get them to contact me.

We got permission from EarthWatch Communications to include a direct pull of their most current watch/warning map for Texas and adjacent states, and that image appears when the page loads. The image should update automatically every 10 minutes if I've written the code correctly.

I'm going to leave the weather page where it is for now, but link to it from the SKYWARN Texas home page. If you'd like to change your link to simply read "SKYWARN Texas Home Page", you can go ahead and do so using the numeric URL shown above. By Saturday, or as soon as the Internic posts an update to the name servers, it should also be possible to reach the page by entering <http://www.skywarn-texas.org/>, but the numerical link will still be good.

By the way, I also digitized the SKYWARN emblem and am now using that as a JPEG background image on all of our pages.

Thanks for all your help. I'll try and stop by the New Braunfels office and say hello the next time I'm in that area on business.

Jim Robinson, K5PNV

Webmaster

SKYWARN Texas

End of his message.....

Anyway, I may send him some weather photos of my own when I have the moment to do so and other weather related data, etc. As always, I will believe it when I see it.

Anyway, thought you may be interested in this info for the club, etc. I would like to bring it to next meeting, however currently have evening shifts. If you want it to wait 'til April, maybe I can bring it then, as I think I took a few days off then, so I can make the April meeting. Whatever you think is best here. In the meantime thought I would send you his letter and the info. I will forward this also to Charlie Thomas.

Robert Blaha

SB QST ARL ARLBO18

ARLB018 FCC issues changes in Amateur Radio rules

In response to three petitions for rulemaking, the FCC has adopted changes to the Amateur Service rules that—among other changes—will make it easier to obtain 1x1 call signs for special event stations and harder to get a club station license. Other amendments to the rules included in a Report and Order released April 1, 1997, will allow hams to append special designators either before or after their call signs—or both, and will recognize, but not require, the use of a session manager at Volunteer Examiner testing sessions.

The FCC declined to give examination credit for formerly held licenses, and turned down an ARRL request for a lifetime operator's license.

Under the new amendments, the FCC will allow a licensee to substitute a self-selected call sign from the block of 1x1 call signs for temporary use during a special event operation. The station must announce its regularly assigned call sign at least once an hour. The special event call signs will be coordinated and issued by outside volunteer entities, not by the FCC. The Commission will announce later when and

how volunteer entities may volunteer their services. The chief of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau then would certify volunteer entities to serve as amateur station special event call sign coordinators, who would issue 1x1 calls from a common, online special event call sign database. By definition, a 1x1 call sign consists of a single prefix letter, K, N or W; the region number, 0 to 9; and a single suffix letter, A to W, Y and Z—750 call signs in all. The FCC turned down a suggestion that would have limited special event call signs to stations licensed to Amateur Extra class operators.

In proposing to increase the eligibility requirements for a club station license, the FCC said it was "important to determine that the applicant for a club station license is a legitimate radio club and not just a person seeking to acquire additional call signs." Under the rules changes, the FCC has raised the eligibility requirement from at least two members to a minimum of four. Applicants for a club station license must have a club name, a document of organization, management, and a primary ham radio purpose that's consistent with FCC rules.

Responding to a petition

by the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC), the FCC said VECs could elect to designate a session manager if they wanted to, but they would not be required to do so. The Commission's new rules recognize the VE session manager function but emphasize that the three Volunteer Examiners at a test session would still be held "jointly and severally responsible for the proper conduct of each examination administered."

Another change will allow hams to include a self-assigned indicator before, after or both before and after the assigned call sign when identifying. Current rules only permit using such indicators after the station's regular call sign. Self-assigned indicators include those used to indicate location or type of operation, such as /KP2 when operating in the US Virgin Islands or /m when operating in a vehicle. They also can denote participation in an unusual event or other atypical station operation, according to the FCC.

Citing mostly negative comments, the FCC decided against allowing exam credit for formerly held amateur operator licenses. The Commission also said "no" to the ARRL's suggestion that

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 3)

ward their request and a title by April 1. Topics may include all relevant amateur satellite disciplines. Abstracts must be filed by June 1, and final versions by August 1 (so that they may be printed in the proceedings). Those not able to attend are encouraged to send papers for inclusion in the proceedings. Submissions should be sent to Wayne Chandler, VE3WHC, Box 6, Carlisle, ON L0R 1H0, Canada; e - m a i l , ve3whc@amsat.org.

Improved WM7D call sign database:

You can now search WM7D's fcc call sign database for clubs—by name, city, state, and/or ZIP Code. Check it out at <http://www.rdatasys.com/~mdowning>.—Mark Downing, WM7D

Henry Radio closes ham retail store:

Citing competitive pressures, veteran ham radio retailer Henry Radio has closed its Los Angeles retail store. Ted Henry Jr, W6YFY, said Henry will continue its amplifier and commercial lines, but—with the closing of the LA store—no longer has a "storefront" retail operation. He said Henry Radio will continue to sell some ham radio equipment via mail order. Henry said ham radio retailing was "not a prof-

(Continued on page 5)

1997 World Telecommunication Day

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Council has chosen "Telecommunication In The Service Of Humanitarian Assistance" as the theme for 1997 World Telecommunication Day (WTD-97), a theme lying at the very heart of Amateur Radio. World Telecommunication Day takes place each year on the anniversary of the creation of the ITU, May 17, 1865.

A specialized agency of the United Nations, the ITU has the vital role of overseeing the division of the range of radio spectrum for the entire world. Based on the demonstrated or perceived needs of different services, which include broadcast, maritime, aeronautical, amateur and others, member-nations of the ITU decide which radio services will be allocated which bands of frequencies. Once that's done, the regulators for each country take over to write domestic regulations in accordance with ITU international agreements.

Amateur Radio is expected to be featured in a special telecommunications center designed to commemorate the event, to be located in front of the ITU Headquarters building, at the Place des Nations, in Geneva, Switzerland. It is expected that special event station operators will use the call sign 4U1ITU, which is the call of the ITU Headquarters club station.

ARRL International Affairs Vice President and IARU Secretary Larry Price, W4RA, and Technical Relations Manager Paul Rinaldo, W4RI, will be in Geneva for other meetings and are planning to represent ARRL and IARU in person. It is further anticipated that ARRL will arrange a schedule with the Geneva special event station to convey a commemorative message from ARRL/IARU. (IARU is a Sector Member of the ITU. ARRL is the International Secretariat of the IARU). US groups involved in emergency communication programs such as ARES and RACES would also be invited to contact and exchange messages with the station.

Other planned activities and demonstrations in Geneva include live videoconferencing (possibly with relief workers at the site of operations in Rwanda and/or Burundi), satellite equipment (provided and operated by commercial suppliers), and VHF and HF mobile equipment. Videos, including a program currently in production on telecommunication in the Rwanda and Burundi operations, will be shown.

President's Memo, continued

(Continued from page 1)

approve it at our next meeting. Moreover, the Finance Committee presented their findings of the 1996 books. They will submit it at our next General Membership meeting.

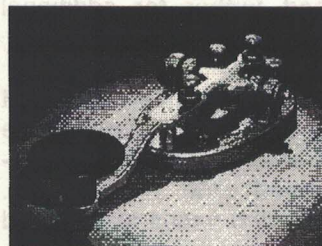
Please see the renewal notice for your dues. I know HI. Hi. I said it was in our last issue well, I'm human what can I say. (Actually, I'll take the blame!, ed.) There should be one in this issue remit your dues and please accept my apologies for any inconvenience it may have caused you.

One last thought before closing, the Section Manager position is open. I want to thank Alan Cross for an outstanding job well done!!! I now leave you to ponder on just who will be our next section manger.

God Bless to all, 73 for now, and I look forward to seeing each and everyone of you at our next meeting.

PS Mike Rittiman, get well, we miss you ...

de Don, N5WSW :-)
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(Continued from page 1)

nounced price reductions to dealers. The company cited the favorable dollar-yen exchange rate as one reason behind the price cuts. Alinco notes that it does not set prices at the dealer level, and that street prices can vary from one retailer to another.

Pre-WW II YL information sought:

Wolf Haranth, OE1WHC, honorary curator of the world's largest QSL collection in Vienna, Austria, says he's seeking information on female hams operating prior to 1939, as part of a research project into the history of Amateur Radio. "So far we have listed 350+ YIs operating before 1939," he reports. He said he now needs background information (biographical information, old and current QSLs, photographs, etc) on as many of them as possible. To help, contact Wolf Haranth, e-mail kwp@rai.ping.com.

ScoutElmer Award:

You don't have to be in Scouting to be the recipient of the ScoutElmer Award for helping Scouts to become hams. To qualify, you must be licensed and either be a past or present Scout or adult leader or know a currently active Scout or leader. ScoutElmers

(Continued on page 3)